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# SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM ALLIANCE

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4400 Fair Lakes Court, Suite 105, Fairfax, Virginia 22033  
(800)523-6154 • (703)222-4267 • Fax (703)222-5816



Re: Compliance of Low-Density Spray Polyurethane Foam in California

To Whom It May Concern:

Low-density spray-applied polyurethane foam (LD-SPF), or open-cell spray foam, is a foam plastic building insulation that has a density range of 0.5 to 1.4 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> and a high percentage of open cells. LD-SPF use has had a dramatic increase in California and elsewhere due to the ability to restrict air movement as well as heat flow. LD-SPF will play a key role in meeting California's energy conservation goals.

There has been a misunderstanding as to whether LD-SPF conforms to Title 24 requirements. Low-density or open-cell spray polyurethane foams are permitted under Title 24. The R-values of assemblies using LD-SPF are incorporated into Title 24's Joint Appendix 4 (JA4). When raters or building officials need to verify R-values or U-factors for LD SPF, JA4 is the primary information source.

Even though permitted under Title 24, an approved Title 24 installation procedure and QII (Quality Insulation Installation) checklist for LD-SPF is still under development. If third-party inspections are needed to verify that LD-SPF has been installed in a quality manner, refer to the Energy Star Thermal Bypass Checklist Guide and the Energy Star Qualified Homes Thermal Bypass Inspection Checklist. Specifically, the Checklist offers the following guidance:

*Alternative methods of meeting the Checklist requirements may be used in completing the Checklist, if the Provider deems them to be equivalent, or more stringent, than the Inspection Checklist guidelines.*

The Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA), a non-profit trade association representing all elements of the SPF industry, has been working closely with the California Energy Commission and other state agencies to develop a mechanism for third-party raters to perform QII inspections. To this effect, the SPFA has formed a task force of members consisting of California-based contractors and suppliers with interests in California to facilitate communication between the SPF industry and the State of California.

**If, after calling the Energy Standards Hotline (1-800-772-3300), questions remain** as to the acceptance or legality of the use of low-density spray polyurethane foams under Title 24, please call the California Energy Commission High Performance Buildings and Standards Development Office directly:

Mr. Payam Bozorgchami 916-654-4618  
Mr. David Ware 916-654-4168

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Duncan".

Richard Duncan, Ph.D., P.E.  
Technical Director